

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Sheila Pomeroy

DATE: August 31, 2001

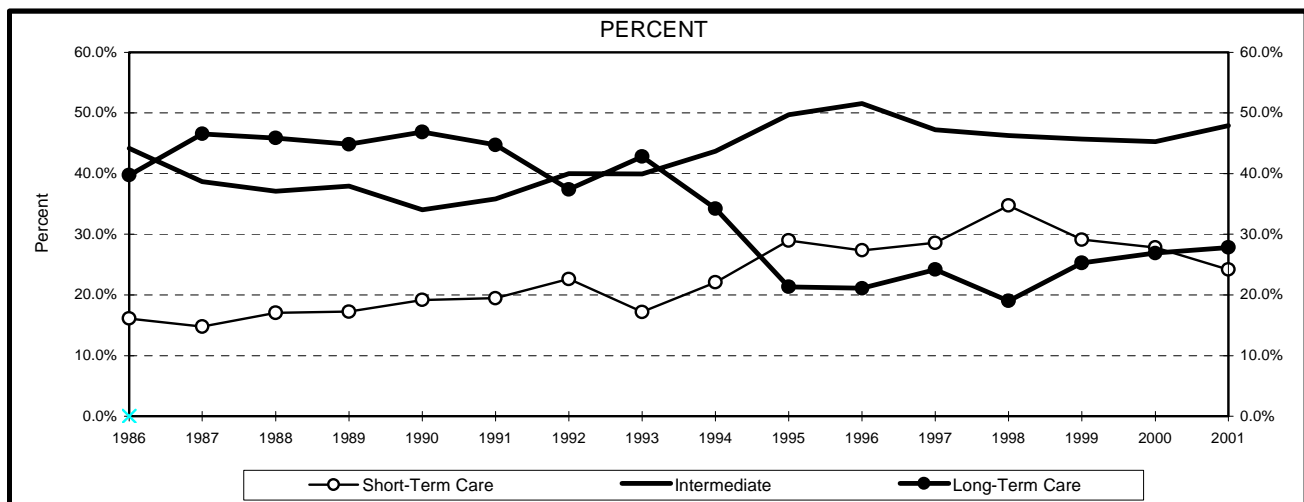
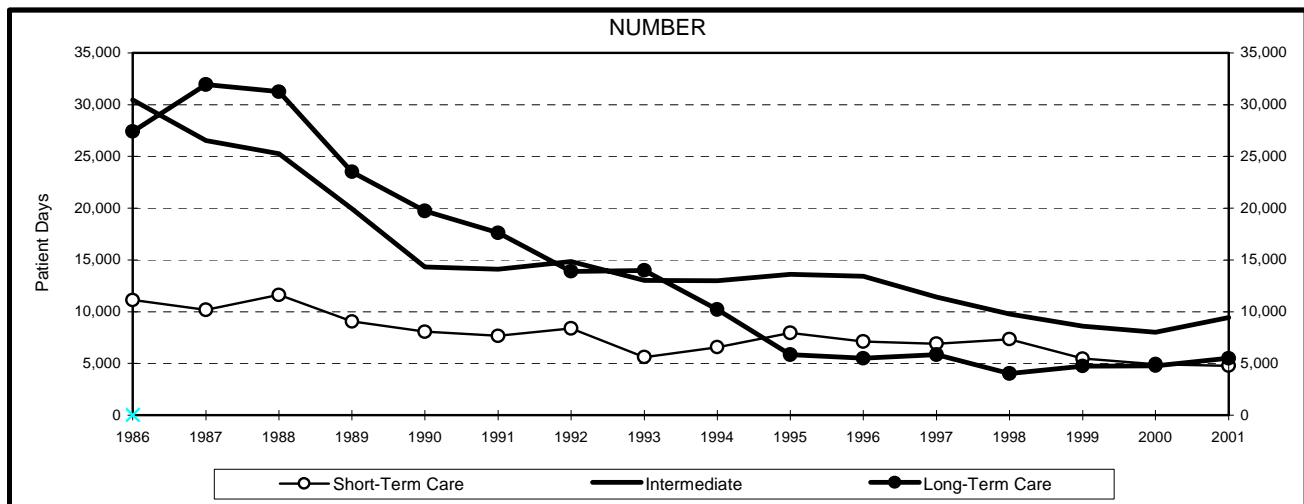
RE: Short-Term, Intermediate, and Long-Term Care Provided by VSH,
FY1986 – 2001

Between 1986 and 2001, the average daily census at the Vermont State Hospital decreased from 189 to 54. This represents a decrease of more than 70% from the 1986 census. During this time period, there have also been a number of changes in the representation of people in different VSH service categories. Traditionally we have thought of VSH patients as falling into one of three service categories depending on the duration of their stay at VSH. People are considered short-term patients during the first 29 days of their stay. People who have been at VSH for more than a year are considered long-term patients. People who have been at VSH for 30 through 365 days are considered to be in an intermediate service category. The attached tables and graphs provide an overview of the representation of people in these three service categories at the Vermont State Hospital during 1986 through 2001.

As you will see, the most drastic change in the VSH caseload occurred between 1993 and 1995 when the representation of long-term care patients decreased from 43% to 21% of the caseload. The representation of long-term patients continued to decline (much more slowly) until it reached a low of 19% in 1998. Since that time, the representation of long-term care patients has increased to 28%. This increase in long-term care corresponded with a decrease in the amount of short-term care from 35% to 24% of the days of care provided by VSH. During 2001, VSH provided more long-term care than short-term care for the first time since 1994.

We will appreciate your comments and questions about these changes in the composition of the VSH population over the past 16 years. As always, you can contact us at jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us or call 802-241-2638.

SHORT-TERM, INTERMEDIATE, AND LONG-TERM CARE PROVIDED BY THE VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL, FY1986 - FY2001



Fiscal Year	Short-Term Care (0-29 Days)		Intermediate (30 Days-1 Year)		Long-Term Care (More Than 1 Year)		Total Patient Days	Average Daily Census
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent		
2001	4,759	24%	9,422	48%	5,475	28%	19,656	54
2000	4,919	28%	7,998	45%	4,758	27%	17,675	48
1999	5,469	29%	8,580	46%	4,745	25%	18,794	51
1998	7,326	35%	9,761	46%	4,015	19%	21,102	58
1997	6,903	29%	11,413	47%	5,840	24%	24,156	66
1996	7,118	27%	13,415	52%	5,490	21%	26,023	71
1995	7,927	29%	13,598	50%	5,840	21%	27,365	75
1994	6,563	22%	12,994	44%	10,180	34%	29,737	81
1993	5,614	17%	13,034	40%	13,965	43%	32,613	89
1992	8,388	23%	14,856	40%	13,892	37%	37,136	102
1991	7,658	19%	14,100	36%	17,604	45%	39,362	108
1990	8,070	19%	14,337	34%	19,732	47%	42,139	115
1989	9,045	17%	19,918	38%	23,521	45%	52,484	144
1988	11,596	17%	25,262	37%	31,251	46%	68,109	187
1987	10,151	15%	26,550	39%	31,952	47%	68,653	188
1986	11,111	16%	30,452	44%	27,419	40%	68,982	189

Information is based on the Vermont State Hospital Admission and Discharge database. Short-term care includes the first 29 days after admission; intermediate includes the days from 30 to 364 days after admission; long-term care includes all days after a patient's first year.